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TRAVEL

Don't let your dream vacation turn into a nightmare. Pass up free trips from contests you never entered and unsolicited offers that sound too good to be true. Walk away from high pressure sales tactics. Check with the Better Business Bureau at (302)230-0108 or at the BBB website at www.delaware.bbb.org/homepage.html, the American Society of Travel Agents, the National Tour Association or the United States Tour Operators Association to be sure you're dealing with a reputable company. Never give your credit card or bank account number until you have all of the trip details in writing and understand the terms and conditions of what you're buying. Consider purchasing travel insurance but be sure you understand the policy's terms and coverage before you purchase.

Don't respond to travel offers that require you to call a 900 area code phone number. You may be charged very high fees for the call itself whether you purchase a trip or not. Be cautious about calling phone numbers in area codes that are outside the country as the charge for the call may be much higher than you would expect.

THE CONSUMER PROTECTION UNIT

The Attorney General's Consumer Protection Unit helps consumers resolve problems with businesses. To get information, discuss problems or make a complaint, call our toll-free number from anywhere in Delaware at 800-220-5424. Consumers in New Castle County can also reach us at 577-8600. Helpful consumer information and our complaint form are on-line at www.state.de.us/attgen